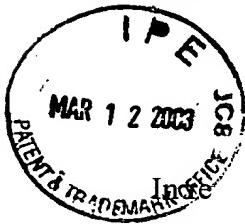


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Application of:

Toshiyuki TANAKA, Yasuhiro MORIMOTO,

For:

Hiroaki KUBO, and Masahito NIIKAWA

Confirmation No.:

ELECTRONIC CAMERA

3597

U.S. Serial No.:

09/834,165

Filed:

April 12, 2001

Group Art Unit:

2871

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

| | |
|--|--|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on | |
| <u>March 7, 2003</u> | |
| _____ Date of Deposit | |
| _____ Kathy E. Needleman | |
| Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative | |
| <u>Kathy Neel</u> | |
| _____ Signature | |
| <u>March 7, 2003</u> | |
| _____ Date of Signature | |

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each of the items is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind.

Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.

Submitted herewith is a copy of an Office Action, dated December 24, 2002, for related Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-116538. The Japanese Office Action cites the following:

- (1) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 04-270571 (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), published September 25, 1992;
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 06-054238 (HITACHI LTD), published February 25, 1994;
- (3) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 07-177398 (SONY CORP), published July 14, 1995;
- (4) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 08-023461 (SONY CORP), published January 23, 1996; and
- (5) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-146248 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), published May 28, 1999.

As this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of being first cited in a foreign communication in a counterpart foreign application, no fee is incurred. However, if it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Kathy Need

Kathy E. Needleman

Reg. No. 47,816

Attorney for Applicants

KEN:pm

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March 7, 2003

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

MAR 12 2003

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| Complete if Known | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Application Number | 09/834,165 |
| Confirmation No. | 3597 |
| Filing Date | April 12, 2001 |
| First Inventor | Toshiyuki TANAKA et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 2871 |
| Examiner Name | To Be Assigned |
| Attorney Docket No. | 15162/03520 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

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|--------------------|--|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials | | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.